THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is implementing the following schemes to encourage sports at the grass root level:—

1. *Rural Sports Programme* State Governments are given assistance for organising rural sports tournaments at the District and State level. National tournaments are organised by Sports Authority of India. In addition, North-Eastern Festival is also organised annually by Sports Authority of India. Under the scheme, rural sports clims/centres are also given financial assistance for purchase of sports equipment.

2. *Grants to Rural school for development of play-fielxds and purchase of non-consumable sports equipment*:— A maximum grant of Rs. 1.00 lakh is given to rural, secondary/higher secondary schools for development of playfields and purchase of non-consumable sports equipment.

3. *Sports Talent Search Scholarship*— State level and national level scholarships at the rate of Rs. 2700/- per annum and Rs. 4800/- per annum are available to selected talented sports perstns studying in schools.

4. *National Sports Talent Contest Scheme*—This scheme attempts in identify talented school children in the age group of 9 to 12 years. These children are admitted in adopted schools where their board, lodging and tution fees are met by SAI. They are provided coaching and specialised training in selected sports disciplines.

5. *Special Area Games Scheme*:—Under the scheme, population groups and regions where natural talent and aptitude for a particular sport exists, are identified. The promising young boys and girls are given intensive training in sports in SAG Centres.

6. *Promotion of Sports and Games through Prize Money*—with the objective of promoting sports in schools, cash prizes are given to schools which win the district inter-school tournament which are organisal in each district upto 9 discipline (5 for boys and 4 for girls).

7. *National Sports Championship for Women—Sports Authority of India* organises annually sports tournament for women from block level to national level.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. For increasing sports consciousness amongst the youth, the Government is concentrating on the following aspects:—

(i) Encouraging participation in sports generally by providing playfields and other infrastructure.

(ii) Integrating sports and physical education in the educational curriculum.

(iii) Utilising Television media gainfully for creating necessary climate for development of sports.

(iv) Encouraging corporate investment in sports.

(v) Facilitating availability of inexpensive sports goods.

(vi) Providing incentives to performing sports persons in matters of employment and admission to courses of higher education.

Conditions for construction of Stadium

2917. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the conditions for construction of stadium and sports facilities are too stiff;

(b) whether people or institutions have not been able to take advantage of Central Governments matching grants for construction of stadium and sports facilities;

(c) if so, how does Government propose to relax the present conditions; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. In fact 63 projects sponsord by non governmental organisations have been sanctioned grants during the last three financial years.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Sports Scholarships in Universities and Schools

2918. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the number of sports scholarships in Universities and schools;

(b) whether there is any such proposal under consideration; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK:) (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Shortage of Swimming Pools in the country

2919. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of Olympic standard swimming pools in the country;

(b) how does Government propose to encourage acquatic sports;

(c) what are the steps Government propose to encourage construction more swimming pools;

(d) whether liberal finances will be made available to State Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) Yes, Sir, However, Olympic standard swimming pools are mainly required for competition and training needs can be met by swimming pools of smaller sizes also.

(b) To encourage aquatic sports, Government is giving financial assistance to concerned National Federations namely Swimming Federation of India, Yachting Association of India, Rowing Federation of India, and Indian Kayaking & Canoeing Association.

Sports Authority of India identifies talented sports persons and trains them in 11 schools adopted for swimming discipline under National Sports Talent Contest Scheme, 4 Army Boys Sports Companies and 3 Sports Hostels. In addition to this, Sports Authority of India has Water Sports Centres at Alleppey and Port Blair, where selected sportspersons are giving training in different water sports. Scholarships are also given to sportspersons who achieve excellence in National level schools games competitions, All India-Inter-University Competitions and State/National level competitions.